

building are now complete. The transmitter and studio equipment have been received at the site and tower for mounting of the FM Antenna erected. The installation of transmitter and studio equipment has also been started. The new Radio Station at Surat is envisaged to be technically ready for commissioning during 1991-92.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the reply is not correct. Today the population of Surat city is about 18 lakhs. Radio Stations have been set up many years ago in many towns smaller than Surat. When people are enjoying T.V. facilities Government has not take action to set up even a Radio Station or a Studio in Surat. The hon. Minister has said in his reply that land was made available to the Government after two years. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why the Central Government did not take any initiative in that regard when I, as Mayor of the Surat Corporation, had already handed over to them land belonging to Surat Corporation in 1986? In his reply he has stated that the Radio Station in Surat would be technically ready for commissioning in 1991-92. What does this mean? Will our Radio Station begin to function or not?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Radio Station will be completed and start working during 1991-92.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got such reply a number of times in the past. I have been raising this issue for the last two years whether it would be started from 91-92. The month of July is ending today but no development has taken place there in this regard. Will you State categorically that the transmitter as well as studio would start functioning by the end of 91-92? Has the Department initiated action to recruit personnel required for it?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): In fact, the hon. Member asked this question previously in an Unstarred Question. Time was given that in 1992 it would be completed. But so far as Government is concerned, Government took all steps. If the hon. Member sees the answer, he will find that both the civil work and the electrical work was assigned to a contractor. The civil work was completed by the contractor. But about the electrical work, after he had half done, he withdrew. So we had to take legal procedure. We sued him for the costs. Then we withdrew the work from him and awarded to another agency which has completed it. It is expected that this will be completed and commissioned fully by March, 1992. I hope, the hon. Member will remain there at the time of inauguration.

Filling up of Reserved Vacancies for SCs/STs

*234. **SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why the reserved vacancies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have not been filled in any recruitment year fully in any group (A, B, C & D) of posts, even after all the exercises over the last forty years or so;

(b) the designations or nomenclatures of posts in each Group (A, B, C & D) for which shortfalls in recruitment have been identified against the reserved vacancies generally and the continuance of such vacancies allegedly for want of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in required numbers or of particular professional and technical disciplines; and

(c) the steps taken for forecasting of the reserved vacancies, for circulation of relevant information sufficient-

ly in advance, and for preparing prospective Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates through appropriate educational and career counselling, guidance, schooling and training programmes to match job opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) There is a continuous growth in the representation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in all groups (A, B, C & D) over the years in the services under the Central Government. From 1971 to 1990, the representation for Scheduled Castes have gone up from 2.58% to 8.64% in group 'A', 4.06% to 11.29% in group 'B', 9.59% to 15.19% in group 'C' and from 18.3% to 21.48% in group 'D' (excluding sweepers). The increase in the case of Scheduled Tribes in the same period has been from 0.41% to 2.58%, 0.43% to 2.39%, 1.7% to 4.83% and 3.65% to 6.73% in groups A, B, C, and D respectively. In the case of posts in the IAS, IPS, etc. and other Central services filled by direct recruitment, all the reserved vacancies have been filled by SC/ST candidates in the last few recruitment years. However, at times, particularly for certain scientific and technical posts/ services, all the reserved vacancies are not able to be filled mainly because suitably qualified SC/ST candidates are not available.

(b) Such information is not centrally maintained. Instructions have been issued to the Ministries/Departments to critically examine the position of representation of SCs/STs in the different posts in each group with a view to identify such posts where shortfall exists and to take remedial measures to make up the same.

(c) Each cadre controlling authority projects its vacancy requirement for the coming recruitment year taking into account expansion, manpower mobility and manpower wastages. The share of reserved vacancies is determined by following established practices. The reserved vacancies are given wide publicity and also intimated to the associations and organisation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes recognised for this purpose. Free coaching to SC/ST candidates is provided for certain posts including posts filled through Civil Services Examinations at over 100 pre recruitment centres throughout the country.

SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: The spirit of my question has not been properly appreciated. Still I am asking the question. If chances of recruitment in IAS, IPS and other Central Services are stated to be hundred per cent, then why is it not possible in the cases of other services in Group A, B and C?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: In the IAS and other Central Services, there is reservation and we are able to fill them up through the direct recruitment process. Where there are vacancies which require certain technical qualifications or other specialised qualifications, we have been having a problem in filling up vacancies as per the quota which has been sanctioned. But two special recruitment drives have been held in 1989 and in 1990 so that the backlog can be cleared and the vacancies can be filled. I would also like to point out that now there is a ban on de-reservation of these vacancies so that they are kept pending until suitable people are found to fill them.

SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Now the ban on de-reservation has made the problem more difficult. IAS and other Central Services are well known and these recruitments are done with regular frequency. Therefore, preparations are made well in advance. But as far as technical and scientific posts are concerned, I have

used the word 'forecasting' in my question. But the answer has been given in regard to 'advertisement'. What I mean by forecasting is that we have had the experience of 40 years and based on this experience we can make a forecast of these posts well in advance so that the prospective candidates could be prepared well in advance.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

Each cadre controlling authority reviews the vacancies that are to arise and there is a forecast made every year according to which the number of vacancies to be filled from the general category and the reserved category are announced in advance. It is not as if it is not being done.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in the reply to the main question that even after 43 years of independence the representation of Scheduled Castes in the Central Government Class-I services is 2.58%, in class II 2.39%, in class III 4.83% and in class IV, which is the post of peon, representation is just 6.73%. This means that they have not been able to acquire capability for the job of even a peon. This is clearly reflects the lack of sincerity on the part of administration in recruiting SCs and STs in class IV posts for which no technical qualifications are required. A Bill in respect of Reservation was formulated when the National Front Government was in power. The then hon. Speaker Shri Rabi Ray gave his consent for the introduction of the Bill in November, but by that time the Government had to resign. There was a provision in the bill for initiating penal proceedings against the officers found guilty of deliberately obstructing the appointment of deserving candidates. So I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether the Government still intends to bring the same legislation before the Parliament? Since this matter is a serious

one and pertains to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, will the Government bring forward legislation for reservation? During the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Centenary year, which has been declared as "Year of Justice", is the Government willing to set a time frame for clearing the backlog of vacancies, by starting special training programmes in the areas predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

Sir, the previous two Governments may have prepared a number of Bills. If they are on record, I should certainly see what has to be done and what needs to be done. But, I can assure the hon. Member in response to the second part of his question that we do have a number of programmes and special programmes for training those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. For preparing them for competitive examinations, there are special institutions. There is other assistance provided to them like scholarships etc. all over the country. If the hon. Member wants to know about it, I can even furnish the list of the special training programmes which exist in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell the Government that the question actually pertains to the Ministry of Welfare and has been wrongly directed. This subject is being dealt with by the Ministry of Welfare and the Welfare Ministry is only formulating the Bill, but the question is being replied to by the other Minister. That is why I requested the Hon. Prime Minister to answer the supplementary questions. There is a reference to legislation for reservation in the President's Address. So I would like to ask a categorical and specific question from the Government, whether it intends to bring forward a legislation in Parliament

for reservation and clearing the backlog of reserved vacancies or not?

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, if it is prepared by another Department, I will call for it and I will look into it.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Sir, in the President's Address it has been mentioned and I quote, "Government will complete the drive for filling the backlog of vacancies meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India in a time bound manner." This is not the first time that in the President's Address a time bound programme for filling up the backlog of vacancies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been mentioned. On earlier two or three occasions, similar statements have been mentioned but the backlog has not minimised. Rather it has increased. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the details of the time bound programme; what is the time limit; till what time the backlog is going to be filled. It has been mentioned that only Ministries and Departments will be covered. I want to know whether the other institutions and other organisations as well as public undertakings will also be covered to fill the backlog of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member that it is not true that these statements made before had gone unfulfilled. I would like to point out that in April, 1989 the first effort at clearing the backlog through the Spe-

cial Recruitment Drive was launched. I can give the hon. Member the figures for the 1989 drive. In Government Departments after this drive the vacancies were filled up to 87.6 per cent in Government Departments in the Public Sector up to 73.9 per cent, in Banks up to 91.6 per cent and in the Insurance Corporations up to 98 per cent. The same drive was again repeated in 1990 and here again I have the figures. I would like to point out that it is not true that no efforts have been made. The backlog clearance through the Special Recruitment Drive can be repeated and I can assure the hon. Member that we will keep up this programme and launch the Special Recruitment Drive again, so that whatever backlog is there is cleared.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Sir, my question has not been answered properly. I asked that as it has been specifically mentioned about the time bound programme, what is the time limit to fill in the backlog?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, can't we say that we can have some programme every year? It will be repeated until vacancies are filled up. I can't say that another special recruitment drive today will result in the filling up of all the vacancies. We will pursue this special recruitment drive until all the vacancies are filled up. It may be one year, it could be six months. If they are not filled up this year, it will be repeated again afterwards.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.